



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

**1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202 – 2733**

Office of the Regional Administrator

October 12, 2017

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Commerce

The Honorable Gene Green
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health
Committee on Energy & Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pallone and Congressman Green:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2017, regarding the meeting with members of the Energy and Commerce Committee on Friday, October 13, 2017, to discuss our response to Hurricane Harvey. EPA is proud of our efforts to support to the state of Texas during the response and there are far too many individuals and departments to thank in this letter. However, I would be remiss for not recognizing the leadership of Governor Abbott, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Chairman Bryan Shaw, Corpus Christi Mayor McComb and Houston Mayor Turner. We are grateful for our longtime relationship with our response partners. I have attached a response to the specific questions in your letter.

Working together, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality coordinated with local, state and federal officials to address the human health and environmental impacts of Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath, especially the water systems in the affected areas. At one point in time TCEQ had approximately 500 people and EPA had over 250 people assisting in response to this natural disaster.

As part of this coordination, a Unified Command was established between the EPA, the TCEQ, the General Land Office, and the U.S. Coast Guard to oversee all emergency response efforts. This Unified Command is supported by three operational branches in Corpus Christi, Houston, and Port Arthur. In addition to the EPA, the TCEQ, the GLO, and the USCG, multiple agencies and groups are supporting each of the operational branches, including the Texas National Guard, 6th Civil Support Team; the Arkansas National Guard, 61st Civil Support Team; the Oklahoma Task Force 1; and the Texas State Guard Engineering Group.

Thank you for your interest in our work and we look forward to continuing to work with you in the future. If you have any further questions, please contact me at (214) 665-2100, or your staff may contact Mr. Austin Vela, Congressional Liaison, at (214) 665-9792.

Sincerely,

Samuel Coleman, P.E.
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosure